

The Tabernacle in Salt Lake, completed in 1867, is one of the wonders of the world. Its architectural and acoustical properties challenge the builders of any age. The structure was built without the metal nails that hold together the average edifices. The foundation walls were granite quarried in Little Cottonwood canyon, with crude implements, and lugged into the nearby open spaces by ox-teams, and hewn into building stone shape by hand power. Literally mountains of Vernal granite were moved to construct the Temple, Tabernacle, and Assembly Hall on Temple Square. On the southeast corner of Temple Square is the Salt Lake Base and Meridian — the point from which most of the surveys in Utah originate.

Huge granite ledges were quarried for the rock used to build the heavy thick walls that supported the suspended ceiling roof — a marvel of architectural ingenuity of all time.

The story of the Tabernacle is the story of Henry Grow, who was born in Philadelphia, October 1, 1817. He became a Mormon convert and emigrated to Nauvoo, Illinois, in 1843. He built the Nauvoo Temple and was a veteran in the Nauvoo uprisings. In 1851 he journeyed across the plains and arrived in Salt Lake City on his birthday. Henry Grow was a bridge builder and was a man with a vision. Too little has been written about this great man.

When Brigham Young in 1853 was told by Henry Grow that he could construct a huge building without inside supports, the great leader commissioned him to set about the task.

The Tabernacle is 250 feet long, 150 feet wide, and 80 feet high, and while it ultimately was the work of many pioneer builders and architects — yet Henry Grow, an eastern bridge builder, was the man who conceived the idea of constructing the huge building without in-



Craftsmen at work.

terior supports — the acoustics are so acute you can hear a pin drop in the mammoth edifice. His son Otto, tells the story this way: "I can remember father worried all the time he was building the Tabernacle."

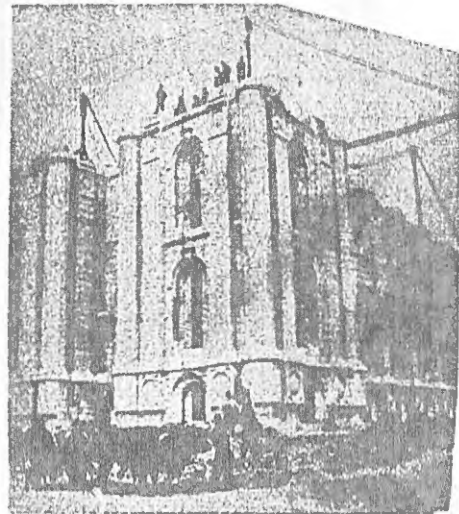
The problem of covering the building was finally solved by the builder Grow by using the Remington patent — a very intricate method of lattice work used primarily in the construction of bridges. Mr. Grow was granted the exclusive

right to use the Remington patent in the West.

Forty-four large pillars were first built to support the sloping roof. Then huge timber arches were thrown across the massive structure to form a skeleton framework for the Tabernacle. And, because nails were scarce in those days, the roof was completed by fastening the timbers together with leather thongs and wooden pegs.

The building was opened with great ceremony in 1867, and a gallery was added in 1870.

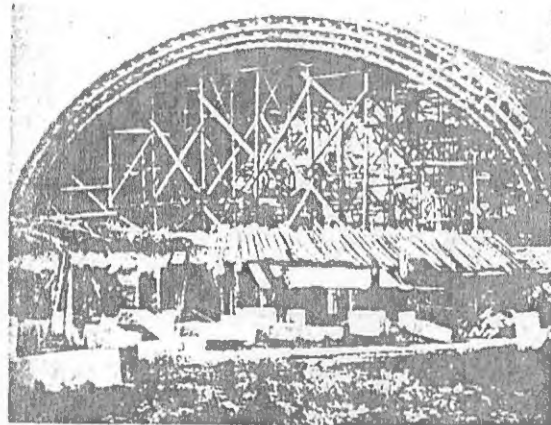
In 1853 Henry Grow constructed the first suspension bridge built in Utah over the Weber River. His building properties extended to the sugar works and the two large sawmills in Big Cottonwood Canyon. His last and greatest project was the construction of the Deseret paper mill at the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon. He completed this in 1883 after he traveled east to inspect the New England paper mills. Henry Grow was a prolific builder and helped with the building of scores of Utah structures, some still standing and a few torn down — but his greatest legacy to the world is the Salt Lake Tabernacle — "the building that couldn't be built."



Ox Team on Temple Square.



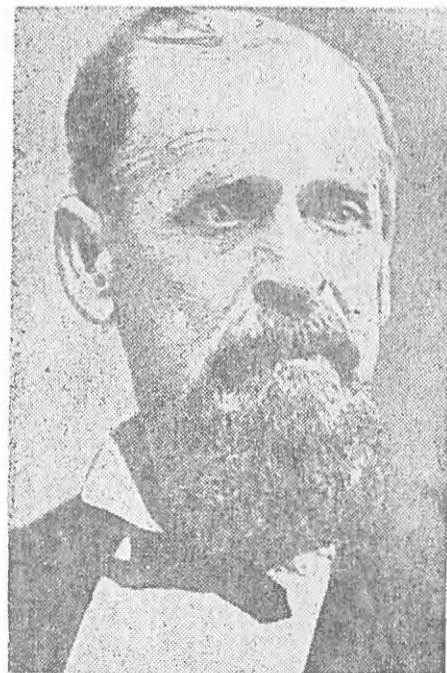
Granite from the Mountains



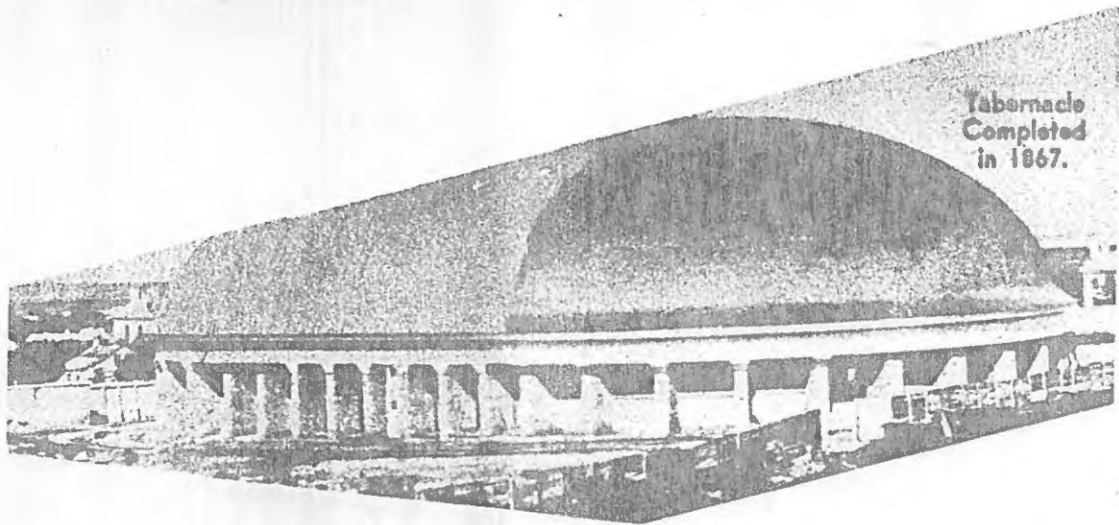
The Section showing Tabernacle Construction



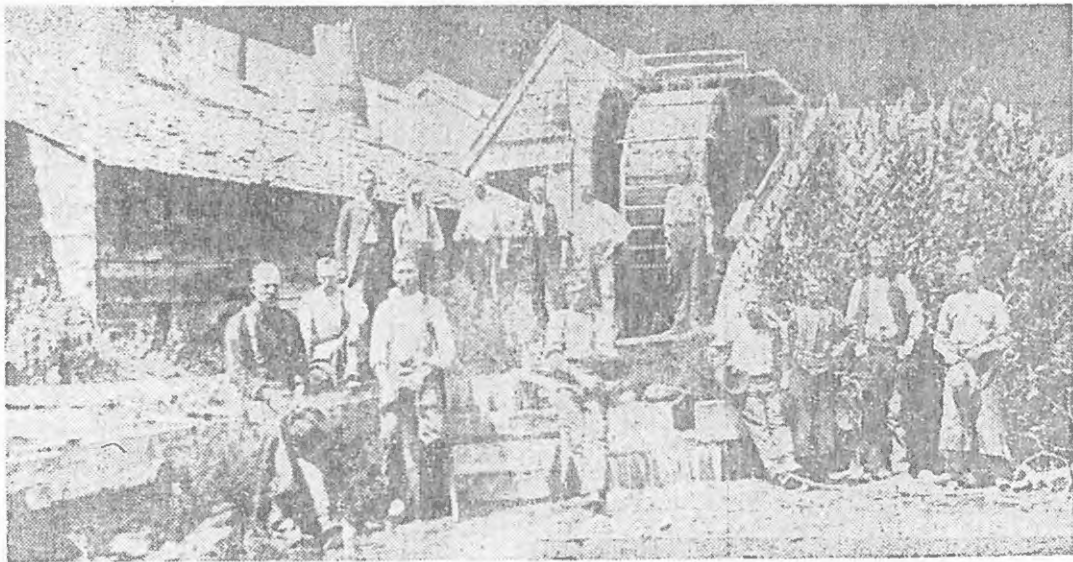
Slabs of Granite



Henry Grow



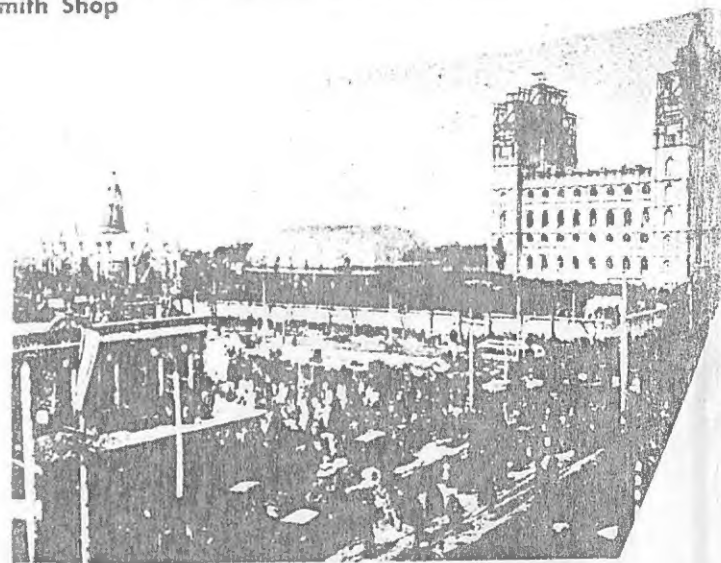
Tabernacle 1867



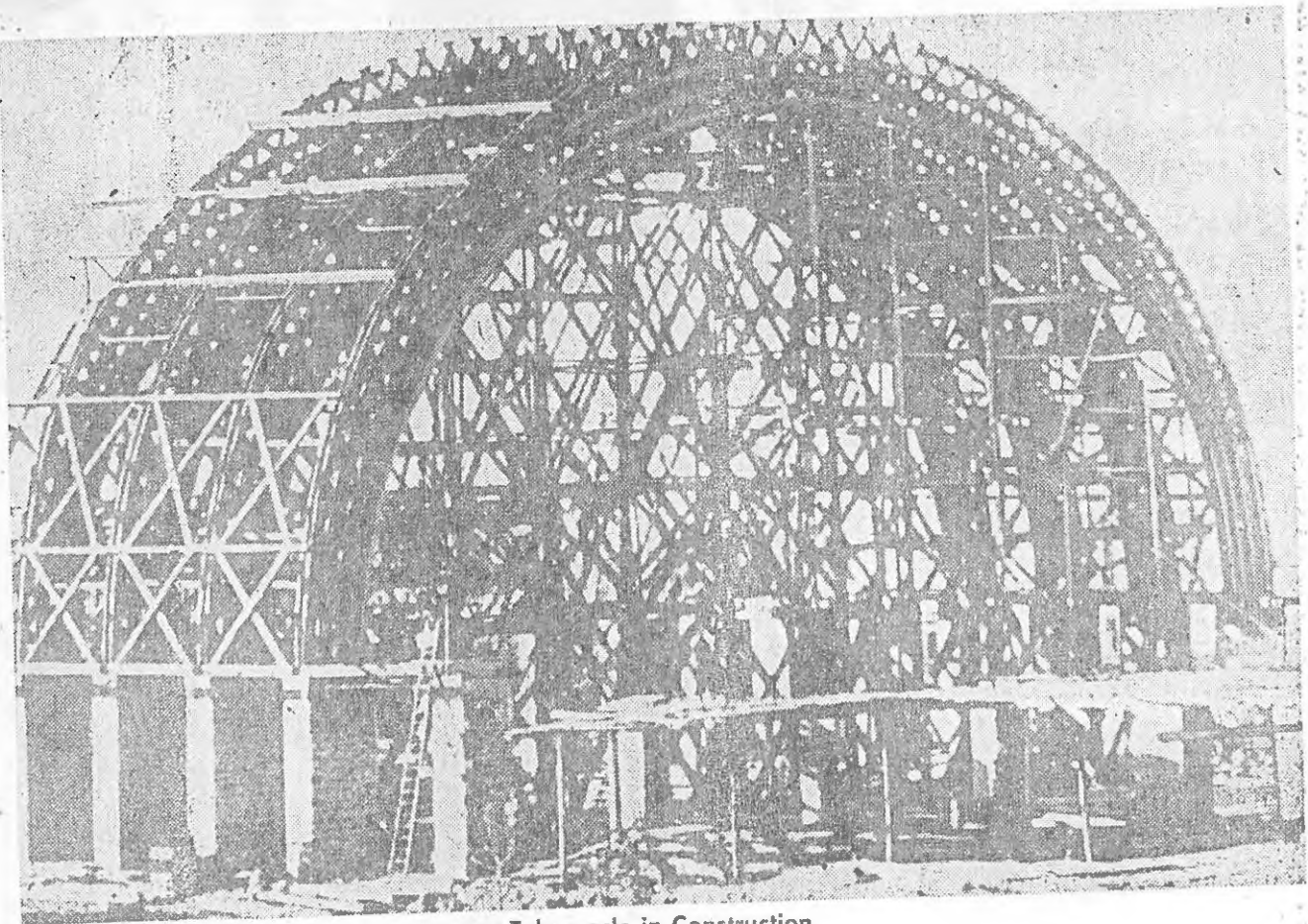
Blacksmith Shop

The Blacksmith Shop was immense. This equipment was used solely by experts who kept the tools used by the builders sharpened. The giant overshot water wheel rotated shafts, pulleys, gears, for the artisans who repaired and kept sharp the tools used in building the Tabernacle, Assembly Hall and the Temple. Raising and lowering City Creek headgate regulated the power used in this mighty shop.

Fine and artistic woodwork was carefully fashioned in this building. Frames of all kinds for windows and doors, panels, panel casings, and elaborate trimmings for floors, walls, and ceilings, were made here by hand, and fitted to the desired place in the huge domed building. Among the craftsmen staff were specialists who did nothing but carving or pattern making.



Completed Tabernacle, and partially completed Temple, with the high rock wall enclosure.



Tabernacle in Construction

UNITED ORDER

In the fall of 1876 Thomas R. King of Fillmore, Millard County, formed a colony in Circle Valley on the east side of the Sevier River, a mile from Circleville, with the idea of creating a Utopia, governed by the idea of a united order. He took with him his sons William, Culbert, Volney, John, Thomas Edwin, and their families — all told some thirty families joined the undertaking and engaged in farming and stock raising.

At the mouth of the East Fork Canyon, they built their industrial center — a gristmill, a woolen factory, and a small tannery. About six miles farther west on City Creek, Thomas E. King constructed a lumber mill furnishing their building material. The woolen mill on the east fork of the Sevier River is standing today. Here in the attic still can be seen the old looms, spindles, and shafts used by the United Order. This converted mill is the home of Mary T. Bay, whose husband from early days ran the gristmill. In 1882 this old gristmill changed ownership from the United Order, and was rebuilt and transformed into a 20-barrel roller mill. It has been running ever since under Mr. Bay until his death eight years ago.

The story goes back to the late '70's and has a timely connection with the settlers of Gunnison

for these people came up from Circle Valley to trade in Dad's mercantile establishments. The United Order proved quite successful for a number of years. The members had large herds of cattle and sheep which they grazed on the whole east fork of the Sevier River and Otter Creek.

Dad often referred to the "Brothers and Sisters" as the "Kings of the Kingdom". In 1882 after a score of fitful years the most of the United Order broke up and moved away, leaving the tannery, mill, and factory to the two brothers, Thomas E. and William King, who set up a post office, and the settlement of East Fork, or East Junction, became Kingston.

In the early days when Kingston was surveyed, the houses were built in two rows. There was a log row and a lumber row. The lumber row was most attractive, and here lived the Kings. The dining hall was a large central building. It was used for the entire Order who ate in common for a few years. There was a large milk house where dairy products were prepared before being taken to the dining hall for serving. One man cared for all the gardening products, carrots, turnips, cabbage, etc. a child would have to ask Brother Forrester for a carrot or turnip to nibble.